

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5135

UNCLAS MUNICH 1030

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ZIEGLER AND GEN. SCOWCROFT

SECTO 196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: KISSINGER'S TOAST AT PRESIDENT LEONE'S LUNCHEON

1) FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TOAST TO PRESIDENT LEONE AT A LUNCHEON IN THE SECRETARY'S HONOR HELD AT ITALY'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, THE QUIRINALE, JULY 5, 1974.

2) "MR. PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT SARAGAT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, EXCELLENCIES, WHEN I LISTENED TO THE PRESIDENT'S ELOQUENT TOAST, WHICH I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, I REALIZED THAT IN THE ART OF EPIC ORATORY THE UNITED STATES IS AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY. TO COME TO ITALY, FOR AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, IS NOT REALLY TO VISIT A FOREIGN COUNTRY. AROUND THIS TABLE SIT MANY FRIENDS WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR DECADES, MANY OF WHOM WILL, NO DOUBT, AS SOON AS THIS MEETING IS OVER, TELL ME ALL THE MISTAKES WE MADE IN MOSCOW. AND WAS HAVE HERE THE TWO ENERGETIC AMBASSADORS WHO REPRESENT OUR COUNTRIES. NOW, WE ARE OF COURSE VERY PROUD OF OUR AMBASSADOR, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT IN THE UNLIKELY 3VENT THAT YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER IN THE DISTANT FUTURE THE COMPOSITION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE HIM INTO CONSIDERATION FOR PRIME MINISTER.

3) AND THE ONLY REQUEST I HAVE OF YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH RESPECT TO YOUR

OWN AMBASSADOR IS TO CUT DOWN ON THE FREQUENCY OF HIS REPORTING.
I CONSIDER HIM A PERSONAL FRIEND, BUT MUCH AS I LOVE ITALY
I CANNOT GIVE HIM A DAILY REPORT ON MY ACTIVITIES. IF WE CAN
COMPROMISE ON ONCE A WEEK, I THINK WE CAN ...

4) BUT, MR. PRESIDENT, REALLY THE ONLY COMPLAINT I HAVE ABOUT
ITALY IS THAT YOU DON'T CAUSE MORE FOREIGN POLICY TROUBLES
TO GIVE ME AN EXCUSE TO COME HERE MORE FREQUENTLY. OUR FRIENDSHIP
FOR ITALY REQUIRES NO REITERATION. WE FOLLOW EVENTS HERE WITH
SYMPATHY AND AFFECTION. AND YOU CAN COUNT ON THE FACT THAT
WHenever ITALY FACES DIFFICULTIES THE UNITED STATES WILL
DO ITS UTMOST TO HELP GUARANTEE STABILITY AND INSURE PROGRESS.
IN THE DISCUSSIONS I WILL HAVE WITH YOUR MINISTERS THIS
AFTERNOON, AND IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW,
THIS WILL BE OUR GUIDING ATTITUDE.

5) AND BEYOND ITALY, WE WILL NEVER FORGET THAT WHATEVER WE
MAY ACHIEVE IN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN BASED ON THE UNITY OF THE
WEST, TO HICH AN ITALIAN STATESMAN, DE GASPERI, AND ITALIAN
LEADERS IN THE WHOLE POST-WAR PERIOD, MADE SUCH A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION. WE ARE NOW IN A MORE COMPLICATED PERIOD OF FOREIGN
POLICY THAN IN THE EARLY POST-WAR ERA. THE PEOPLE OF NONE OF
OUR COUNTRIES WILL BE PREPARED TO SUSTAIN CRISES UNLESS THE LEADERS
OF THE COUNTREIS CAN SHOW THAT THEY MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PRESERVE
THE PEACE.

6) SO, THEREFORE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST,
IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PROVE TO ITSELF AND
TO PROVE TO OTHERS THAT IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE EVERY REASONABLE
EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. BUT WE WILL NEVER
BRING ABOUT RELAXATION OF TENSIONS BY SACRIFICING THE INTERESTS
OR THE SECURITY OF OUR FRIENDS. AND THEREFORE I LOOK FORWARD
TO MY TALKS AT YOUR FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON WHERE WE
CAN CHART AGIN COMMON ACTION -- AFTER I HAVE LISTENED FOR 15
MINUTES TO OTHER MISTAKES WE HAVE RECENTLY MADE. BUT BEYOND
RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WE HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN
PRESERVING THE PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN OTHER PARTS OF
THE WORLD.

7) WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE INTEREST YOU HAVE TAKEN IN THE
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MIDDLE EAST AND WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE MADE WITH
INTEREST AND SYMPATHY. SO WHATEVER ISSUES WE CONSIDER, WE APPROACH
THEM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE IDENTITY OF INTERESTS
BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE HAPPY ABOUT THE
IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ITALY HAS PLAYED IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,
AND WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN UNITY AS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. WE BELIEVE THAT RECENT
EVENTS HAVE STRENGTHENED TIES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AND WE LOOK

FORWARD TO THE NEW EFFORTS TO FOSTER EUROPEAN UNITY.

8) SO, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER WITH OTHERS TO HELP ITALY WITH SOME IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTY. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CLOSELY TIED FOR THE ENTIRE POST-WAR PERIOD. THE SENTIMENTS OF OUR PEOPLES ARE VERY FRIENDLY TO EACH OTHER AND IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE MY GLASS. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE WARM FRIENDSHIP OF ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES. "

9) FOREGOING TEXT IS SENT FOR THE RECORD, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT FOR RELEASE. KISSINGER

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